



# California State Fire Training

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## INTERIM SFT PROCEDURES

<b>Procedure Title:</b>	<b>Fire Investigator (2017)</b>
<b>Edition:</b>	January 2015 edition of the State Fire Training Procedures Manual
<b>Effective Date:</b>	June 1, 2017
<b>Section Change:</b>	Updated section <b>7.7.2.7</b> with revised Expert Witness requirement Added section <b>7.7.3 Fire Investigator (2017)</b> certification requirements. <i>All new text appears in <u>underline</u>.</i>

### 7.7: INVESTIGATION

#### 7.7.2: FIRE INVESTIGATOR II

##### 7.7.2.7: Experience

- A. Fire Service or Law Enforcement (one of the following two options)
  - 1. Have a minimum of two years' full-time paid experience in a Recognized Fire Agency in California or law enforcement agency as a fire investigator with overall responsibility for fire investigations in the jurisdiction
  - 2. Have had overall responsibility in a Recognized Fire Agency in California or law enforcement agency for the investigation of 150 fires

This experience must involve the full range of investigative duties, including origin and cause determination, evidence collection and preservation, interviewing and interrogations, securing search warrants, arrest of suspects, case preparation, and courtroom presentation.

- B. Expert Witness (one of the following two options)
  - 1. Have qualified as an expert witness in a fire origin and cause determination in a California criminal court proceeding
    - i. SFT does not accept expert witness coursework as equivalent to actual courtroom experience.
  - 2. Complete one of the following courses:
    - i. California Conference of Arson Investigators- Expert Witness Testimony
    - ii. International Association of Arson Investigators- Expert Witness Courtroom Testimony
    - iii. National Fire Academy- Interview Interrogation Techniques and Courtroom Testimony

#### 7.7.3: FIRE INVESTIGATOR (2017)

##### 7.7.3.1: Overview

- A. Fire Investigator certification provides the knowledge and skills needed to determine fire origin, conduct scene documentation/evidence collection, develop an interview plan and testify in legal proceedings.
- B. The Fire Investigator certification replaces the Fire Investigator I and II certifications which retires on December 31, 2018.

Reissued: July 27, 2017

*This Interim Procedure provides guidance and/or interpretation on SFT Procedures and shall be effective for 12 months from the approval date.*

### **7.7.3.2: History**

#### **A. Established**

- June 1, 2017

### **7.7.1.3: Completion of the Prerequisites:**

1. Basic Electricity (CFITrainer.net)
2. Ethics and the Fire Investigator (CFITrainer.net)
3. Introduction to Evidence (CFITrainer.net)
4. Motive, Means, and Opportunity (CFITrainer.net)
5. POST certified PC 832 Arrest (POST)
6. POST certified Interview and Interrogation (POST)
7. FI210 Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination (NWCG)

### **7.7.1.4: Education**

- A. Fire Investigation 1A: Basic Fire Investigation (2017)
- B. Fire Investigation 1B: Evidence and Documentation (2017)
- C. Fire Investigation 1C: Preparation for Legal Proceedings (2017)

### **7.7.1.5: Certification Exam**

- A. Not applicable

### **7.7.1.6: Certification Task Book**

- A. Fire Investigator Certification Task Book

### **7.7.1.7: Experience**

- A. Fire Service or Law Enforcement (one of the following three options):
  1. Have a minimum of two year's full-time paid experience in a recognized fire agency in California with the primary responsibility as a fire investigator
  2. Have a minimum of four year's volunteer or part-time paid experience in a recognized fire agency in California with the primary responsibility as a fire investigator
  3. Have a combination of full-time paid and part-time or volunteer experience equal to two year's full-time paid experience in a recognized fire agency in California with the primary responsibility as a fire investigator
    - i. Part-time paid or volunteer to full-time paid ratio is 2:1 (for example, two months' part-time paid or volunteer = one month full-time paid)
- B. Investigate 20 fires, 10 must be structure fires, as the primary investigator and develop complete fire investigation reports

### **7.7.1.8: Rank or Position**

- A. Appointed to the rank or position of Fire Investigator

### **7.7.1.9: Application**

- A. See 7.2.4: Application Process – With a Certification Task Book.
- B. Supporting Documentation
  1. Prerequisite
    - i. Copies of course completion certificates for each prerequisite requirement
  2. Education
    - i. Copies of course completion certificates from SFT for each educational requirement

**7.7.1.10: Maintenance**

A. Not applicable

**Justification:** The State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) has approved the Fire Investigator (2017) curriculum and certification training standards as a replacement for the Fire Investigator I (1981) and Fire Investigator II (1986) certification track. These changes are directed at meeting the specific Job Performance Requirements for Fire Investigator certification established in NFPA standard 1033 (2014 edition).

The current SFT Procedures Manual dated January 2015 does not include the updated curriculum and certification requirements. This creates confusion for candidates attempting to obtain Fire Investigator (2017) certification.

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